

Appln No. 09/931,590
Amdt date July 27, 2009
Reply to Office action of April 27, 2009

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enhancing a broadcast event for a plurality of remote viewers each having a client device including a local storage device and a personal interactivity recorder (PIR) for storing and playing back interactive content along with playback of the broadcast event, the method comprising:

each local storage device receiving and storing the broadcast event in a first data store as the broadcast event is being broadcast via a broadcast event signal to the plurality of remote viewers during a first time period;

each PIR coupled to the local storage device receiving one or more trigger messages ~~interactive content~~ from a server system separately from the broadcast of the broadcast event and not embedded in the broadcast event signal, the trigger messages identifying interactive content for display by the client devices during a first time period in response to the one or more trigger messages, the interactive content being related to the broadcast event, ~~the interactive content being configured to be displayed by each client device during the first time period~~;

each PIR associating the ~~interactive content-trigger messages~~ received from the server system to the broadcast event and storing the associated ~~interactive content-trigger messages~~ in a second data store of the corresponding client device;

during playback of the stored broadcast event by a particular one of the client devices during a second time period, retrieving the stored broadcast event from the first data store and the stored ~~interactive content trigger messages~~ from the second data store in response to a user command; and the particular one of the client devices playing back the retrieved broadcast event during a second time period, wherein when the retrieved broadcast event is played back during the second time period, the corresponding PIR provides for providing to the user the interactive content identified by the retrieved trigger messages at one or more times during the retrieved

Appln No. 09/931,590
Amdt date July 27, 2009
Reply to Office action of April 27, 2009

broadcast event when the interactive content would have been displayed when the broadcast event was being broadcast during the first time period.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the local storage device includes fast forward, rewind, and pause functions.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the associating includes associating information about the broadcast event to the ~~interactive content trigger messages~~, the information being selected from a group consisting of absolute time codes, relative time codes, and frame sequence numbers.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the interactive content includes trivia questions, wherein the PIR stores the correct answer, and wherein, responsive to an answer received from a user during playback, the PIR provides to the user an indication of a correct or incorrect answer.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the interactive content includes poll questions, the PIR stores poll results, and responsive to a response to the poll received from a user, the PIR provides poll results after receiving the response to the poll question from the user.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first data store and the second data store reside in a same storage medium.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the PIR uses the processing and storing functionality of the local storage device.

8. (Cancelled)

Appln No. 09/931,590
Amdt date July 27, 2009
Reply to Office action of April 27, 2009

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the local storage device includes a hard drive.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the PIR stores messages sent by other viewers using a chat functionality during the broadcast event and received over a separate channel from the broadcast and therefore not embedded in the broadcast signal, the messages being displayed during play back at the time during the broadcast event when the messages were displayed.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the PIR includes processing and storage separate from the local storage device.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for use with a local storage device at a remote viewer location for storing and playing back interactive content along with playback of a broadcast event, the system including:

a data store;

a personal interactivity recorder (PIR) at the remote viewer location, the PIR being configured to receive interactive content one or more trigger messages from a server separately from a broadcast of a broadcast event and not embedded in a broadcast signal broadcasting the broadcast event, the trigger messages identifying interactive content for display by the client devices during a first time period in response to the one or more trigger messages, the interactive content being related to the broadcast event the interactive content configured to be displayed to a plurality of remote viewers during a broadcast time of the broadcast event, the PIR associating the received interactive content trigger messages to the broadcast event and storing the associated interactive content trigger message in the data store, wherein when the broadcast

Appn No. 09/931,590
Amdt date July 27, 2009
Reply to Office action of April 27, 2009

event is played back from storage, the PIR retrieves the stored trigger messages from the data store and provides the interactive content identified by the retrieved trigger messages during times within the stored broadcast event when the interactive content would have been displayed when the broadcast event was broadcast.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the local storage device includes fast forward, rewind, and pause functions.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the associating includes associating information about the broadcast event to the interactive content trigger messages, the information being selected from a group consisting of absolute time codes, relative time codes, and frame sequence numbers.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the interactive content includes trivia questions, and the PIR stores the questions and answers provided during the broadcast.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the PIR provides to the user an indication of a correct or incorrect answer after the user enters an answer to the trivia question.

18. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the interactive content includes poll questions, and the PIR stores poll questions and results during the broadcast event for display when the broadcast event is played back.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the data store storing the interactive content resides in a same storage medium as a data store storing the broadcast event.

Appln No. 09/931,590
Amdt date July 27, 2009
Reply to Office action of April 27, 2009

20-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the interactive content provided during the first and second time periods is not targeted interactive content that is based on individualized viewer profile information.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the interactive content provided by the PIR and at the broadcast time of the broadcast event is not targeted interactive content that is based on individualized viewer profile information.

30. (Currently Amended) An interactive television system for storing and playing back an enhanced video program, the system including:

a broadcast device for broadcasting a video program during a first time period, the video program being associated with interactive data for displaying interactive content during the first time period; and

a plurality of client devices at a plurality of end-user locations, each of the plurality of client devices coupled to the broadcast device over a data communications network and receiving the broadcast video program via a broadcast signal, the plurality of client devices further receiving the interactive data one or more trigger messages from the server separately from the broadcast video program, the trigger messages identifying interactive content for display by the client devices during a first time period in response to the one or more trigger messages for displaying the interactive content during the first time period at each of the plurality of client devices, each client device including a first recording device coupled to a first local storage medium for recording the broadcast video program and a second recording device coupled to a second local storage medium for recording the interactive data trigger messages, the first and second recording devices being respectively configured to retrieve the recorded video program from the first local storage medium and the interactive data stored trigger messages from the second local storage medium during a second time period in response to a user

Appln No. 09/931,590
Amdt date July 27, 2009
Reply to Office action of April 27, 2009

command, and play back the retrieved video program and the interactive content associated with identified by the retrieved interactive data trigger messages, wherein the playback of the interactive content is at one or more times during the retrieved video program when the interactive content would have been displayed when the video program was broadcast during the first time period.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the first local storage medium is the same as the second local storage medium.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the first recording device is the same as the second recording device.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30 further comprising:
a user input device coupled to each client device for transmitting a video control message to the first and second recording devices, the first and second recording devices being configured to separately perform a corresponding action on respectively the video program and interactive content in response to the video control message.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[34]]33, wherein the video control message is a message selected from a group consisting of fast forwarding, rewinding, and pausing.

35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the interactive content provided during the first and second time periods is not targeted interactive content that is based on individualized viewer profile information.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the PIR is invoked for forwarding and rewinding the stored interactive content.

Appln No. 09/931,590
Amdt date July 27, 2009
Reply to Office action of April 27, 2009

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving a user interaction from the particular one of the devices during playback of the interactive content, wherein the interactive content is a poll question and the user interaction is a response to the poll question, wherein the poll response transmitted during the playback of the interactive content is ignored by the server system in calculating a poll result.

38-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the broadcast event is broadcast of a video program that contains no embedded triggers associated with the interactive content.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the interactive content is transmitted by the server system over a wide area network concurrently with the video program, wherein the interactive content is synchronized with the video program.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the first recording device recording the video program is a personal video recorder (PVR) engine and the second recording device recording the interactive data is a personal interactivity recorder (PIR) engine separate from the PVR engine for recording the interactive data trigger messages separately from the video program.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[45]] 1, wherein the stored interactive content includes trigger messages include information associating the interactive content to the broadcast event.

Appln No. 09/931,590
Amdt date July 27, 2009
Reply to Office action of April 27, 2009

47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46, wherein the information is a video frame marker.